and the requirement of the borrowers. The HDFC Bank offers long term loans for purchase of plots and houses (both construction and ready purchase) in both urban and rural areas.

(c) and (d) In term of RBI instructions, Housing finance by banks can be either direct or indirect. Direct Housing Finance is provided to individuals or groups of individual including co-operative housing societies. The finance can be extended for buying/constructing a house in rural, semi-urban, urban or metropolitan area. Indirect Housing Finance is extended by banks by way of term loans to housing finance institutions, housing boards, other public housing agencies, etc.

Harassment of Passengers at Karipur Airport in Kerala

2933. SHRI A. VIKJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is taken against customs officials on complanits/ reports of corruption, grafting etc. on the alleged harassment of passengers in Karipur airport located in Kerala.

(b) if so, the details thereof including number of cases registered, officials *prima-facie* involved, and charges leveled as on today, category-wise;

(c) the details of assets of these official observed/recorded and details irregularities/graft found to be received as on today; and

(d) the number of cases registered and officials charged on above charges in various airports of Kerala during last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALWIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On receipt of complaints of alleged harassment & misbehaviour, an Inspector of Customs has been transferred our of the Air Customs Karipur to a non-sensitive assignment by the department during 2005. CBI has also registered two cases against officers of Customs during the year 2005. 3 Customs officers (2 Inspector and 1 Head Hawaldar) arrested in the CBI case have been placed under suspension. Two of these officers have intimated transactions in immovable assests under the provision of CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(d) NIL, other than those mentioned in reply to parts (a) to (c) above.

Corporatisation of Mints and Security Presses

2934. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to corporatise Government mints and security printing presses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the trade unions served strike notices opposing corporatisation;

(d) if so, the present status and the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to reconsider the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The decision to corporatise the Mints/Presses is based on the need for greater efficiency and faster decision making. The thinking to have a wholly owned Corporation without diluting any holding of the Government.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Several rounds of discussions have been held with the Unions to convince them that the interests of the workers would be fully protected under the new Corporation

(e) No, Sir.

World Bank assistance for projects in Uttar Pradesh

2935. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects launched with the assistance of World Bank in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of funds granted by the World Bank for carrying out the works during the last three years?